



EU-COLOMBIA RELATIONS

Colombia is a key partner for the European Union in Latin America. The EU's relations with Colombia are based on **political dialogue, trade cooperation** and joint efforts to achieve **sustainable development and support to peace-building**.

The European Union and Colombia hold consultations on political issues focusing on bilateral, regional and global issues and meet annually for a high-level political and sectorial dialogues on human rights, security and defence dialogue and – since 2022 - on illicit drugs and on environment and climate action. With the signing of the "EU-Colombia Memorandum of Understanding on an Agenda of enhanced political and sectorial dialogue and cooperation for the next decade" on 20 September 2021, the EU and Colombia manifested their mutual political and economic interest to engage in a more structured partnership.

Priority areas and common challenges:



Stable & lasting peace



Fighting illicit drugs & Organised crime



Security & defence



Human Rights & Gender Equality



Climate change & biodiversity

TRADE

The EU is the **biggest provider of foreign direct investments** in Colombia and is its **third trading partner**.

The net worth of bilateral trade between the EU and Colombia amounted to **€17 billion in 2022**.



Colombia is part of the **EU-Colombia/Ecuador/Peru Trade Agreement**, provisionally applied since 2013. It has brought important benefits for both sides, including for example for the agricultural sector in Colombia, contributing to rural development, which is crucial in the post-conflict context. Colombian SMEs are great beneficiaries of these new opportunities.



3rd

EU was Colombia's 3rd trading partner (after the United States of America and China), in 2022

TOTAL EXPORTS €8.5 BN
EU → COLOMBIA: (2022)

TOTAL EXPORTS €9.3 BN
COLOMBIA → EU: (2022)



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

1st

EU is the first foreign investor in Colombia (accumulated FDI)

COOPERATION

As part of the EU's integrated approach, development cooperation is particularly important. Bilateral cooperation between the EU and Colombia amounts to **€75 million for 2021-24**, focusing on peace (including migration and gender) and environment.

In addition, Colombia is benefitting from specific migration and conflict-related EU assistance. This includes **€58 million** for regularisation, protection and integration of migrants and host communities, as well as a **Trust Fund (EUTF)**, to which 21 EU Member States, UK and Chile have provided **a total of €130 million**. EUTF projects support local economic development and the reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as land formalisation.



The EU and Colombia work jointly to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

One of the overarching goals is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, as well as the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.



EU-COLOMBIA PARTNERSHIP

PEACE LABORATORIES & NEW PEACE TERRITORIES PROJECT

These EU projects contributed to boosting economic development, human rights and democracy in Colombia from 2002 to 2017.

..... **€160 million**

EU TRUST FUND FOR PEACE

The Trust Fund supports the implementation of the Peace Agreement

..... **€130 million**

INSTRUMENT FOR STABILITY AND PEACE (IcSP) / RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR-NDICI-GLOBAL EUROPE (RRP)

IcSP/RRP actions focus on the implementation of the peace agreement, in particular chapter five relating to victims of the conflict and transitional justice. They include support to three transitional justice institutions and to the Special Investigation Unit of the Prosecutor's Office.

..... over **€50 million**



SECURITY: FIGHTING ILLICIT DRUGS AND ORGANIZED CRIME

The EU and Colombia are partners in the fight against organised criminal groups and drug trafficking. Since 2016, Europol and Colombia have a well-established law enforcement cooperation. Last March the EU Commission announced the commitment to fund a pilot project in the context of the upcoming edition of EL PACCTO 2.0 to operationalise the exchange of information between Colombia and Europol in the context of Ameripol (EUR 3 million). In June 2022, the **EU-Colombia high-level dialogue on drugs** was inaugurated. Colombia furthermore participates in dedicated regional programmes including EL PACCTO (technical assistance on fight against transnational organised crime), EUROFRONT (technical assistance on integrated border management, with a budget of 15 million euros coordinated in Argentina) and COPOLAD III (drugs policies).



DIGITAL

The **EU-Colombia Digital Economy Package** was launched on 14 March 2023 including concrete actions to strengthen the partnership and cooperation between the EU and Colombia in the field of digitalisation, as part of the Global Gateway strategy:

- **Connectivity:** Working towards the Government's plan to connect 85% of the population and, through it, facilitate peace process through the presence of the State in the territories.
- **Cybersecurity:** Supporting the creation of the National Cybersecurity Agency.
- **Space:** Use of Copernicus and Galileo satellites to enable the development of a space agency.
- **Digital entrepreneurship:** Technical assistance on issues associated with digital business transformation through a project led by the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá.
- **Digital policy dialogue** within the framework of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The EU supports humanitarian needs of Colombians affected by violence, including internally displaced people, communities isolated or confined due to the armed conflict, refugees, and migrants. Since 1994, the **EU has allocated EUR 372.2 million humanitarian funding from 1994 to 2022 for Colombia** including EUR 249.2 million to assist victims of the armed conflict, inside and outside Colombia; EUR 16 million to support response to disasters resulting from natural hazards; **EUR 20 million in Disaster Preparedness**; EUR 78.6 million to respond to the Venezuelan and transcontinental mixed migration crisis and **EUR 8.4 million** to respond to Covid-19 pandemic.



PEACE PROCESS

The **EU has been supporting the peace process** in Colombia since the very beginning. It does so in an integrated approach, using all its tools: diplomacy, international cooperation and development, humanitarian aid and civilian protection and investment and trade.

Overall, the EU has invested **over €650 million**. This includes as its key instrument the EU Trust Fund, loans by the European Investment Bank, short-term actions and ongoing programmes. Some examples:

In strong political support of the peace process, **Eamon Gilmore, continues playing a key role** as the EU's **Special Envoy for the peace process** in Colombia.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU supports social leaders and human rights defenders, in particular building their capacity for protection and self-protection, and access to justice.

..... **€7.275 million** (since 2016)

GENDER EQUALITY

The EU also supports women, peace and security; economic empowerment of women and combating all forms of gender-based violence.

..... **€9.477 million** (since 2016)

SPECIFIC SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS

To build lasting peace, the EU supports civil society projects that create opportunities in rural areas, particularly for young people, and that foster inclusiveness and local democracy.

..... **€12,5 million** (since 2021)



DEMOCRACY

The EU dispatched an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) led by Chief Observer MEP Javi Lopez for the legislative (13 March) and presidential (1st round 29 May, 2nd round 19 June) elections in Colombia in 2022, after receiving an invitation from the Electoral Body. The EU EOM arrived in January 2022, and deployed more than a hundred short-term and long-term observers throughout Colombia to observe the electoral campaigns, the three election days and their respective scrutinies. In September 2022, the Mission published its final report, which includes 24 recommendations to improve the Colombian electoral system in accordance with international standards for elections.